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## THE CONVENIENT MARRIAGE.

IF Hymen were on some occasions to use a farthing candle for his usual torch, no one could blame him—so sordid are the principles upon which some people enter the condition of matrimony. The alliance of which I am about to relate the circumstances, was one of such a nature, that perhaps a *match* would have been the most appropriate light for the occasion: it would have been the cheapest light that could be had, and its brief existence would have best emblematised the affections which caused it to be kindled.

Mrs Robinson was a stout gentlewoman-like person, above fifty, who lived upon a very small annuity in a country town north of the Tweed. She was a native of England—was the widow of three husbands—and had spent the latter part of her life as a housekeeper in the family of a Scottish land-proprietor. Mrs Robinson's first marriage was one of pure love. She eloped from her parents with a vagrant gentleman who quickly deserted her, and soon after died. Her second alliance was of a more sober character, and would have probably turned better out, if her husband had been so happy as long to survive the union. A wide space intervened between the second and the third match, during which time she supported herself by keeping a millinery shop. At length a middle-aged skipper, on a visit to his native town, which was that in which she resided, prevailed upon her to enter a third time into the condition which had hitherto proved to her only a source of affliction. She gave up her shop, and removed to the port with which Captain Robinson was connected, where she lived for some time happily enough, notwithstanding the long absences of her husband, who was then engaged in transporting stores to the British army in North America. The vessel at last returned one morning to port without its master. He was reported by the mate, now acting in his place, to have joined as volunteer with a body of troops who made a descent upon a part of the American coast, where a great booty was expected. The enterprise had been unsuccessful, and the poor captain was reported among the slain or missing.

Being thus thrown out of all means of independent livelihood, Mrs Robinson eagerly embraced an opportunity which soon after occurred, of entering the family already alluded to, in the capacity of housekeeper. The situation proved more agreeable than she expected; for on the death of the lady of the house, which soon after took place, she became in some measure the autocrat of the whole establishment. For nearly twenty years she remained in this comfortable office, till her widowed employer also died, and the household was broken up. Being then too far advanced in life to hope for another place, she resolved to retire upon an annuity of twenty pounds which her master had left to her, and with which she hoped, by resorting to a cheap country town, to furnish herself with a moderate share of the necessaries of life.

It was about the close of the last century when Mrs Robinson took a small house at a rent of twenty-five shillings, in the ancient burgh of Caverton. Being provided with a few articles of furniture which had been given to her by her master's heir, and having a considerable stock of good, though somewhat old-fashioned clothes, she was able to start without debt—a grievance which she was conscientiously anxious to avoid. The scene of her residence was one of those small towns, where few are in affluent or even easy circumstances, and the great mass are poor and dependent. Mrs Robinson, with her twenty pounds a-year, was therefore a person of some little consideration among her neighbours. There was a certain dignity in her

well-kept old figure, and her short silk mantle and pattens, which could not fail to command respect. Her manners also had that comparative refinement which is so apt to impose on the senses of a homely set of people. She still retained "her English," as the town's folk called it; and even in the very deference with which she treated her humble neighbours, there was something that tended to excite their respect. For instance, a shoemaker, whom all the rest of the world called Saunders Ketchen, was, with her, *Mister Ketchen*; his wife, from time immemorial styled Bell Miller, and as vulgar a scold as lived, became, with her, *Mistress Ketchen*. The people were absolutely overawed by her civility. The children of the rather better sort of people, whom she occasionally visited, were equally astonished to hear themselves addressed as Master James, and Miss Elizabeth, instead of their usual appellations of *Jemmy* and *Betsy*. Then she had various habits, which, though they may appear ordinary to many who read this sketch, were the subject of infinite wonderment to the simple country people among whom she lived. When she entered her pew in the parish church, where she was a constant hearer, she always leant for a minute with her face upon the book-board, before assuming her seat. It was also observed, that, in her own home, she read prayers from a certain book, every morning and evening. In reality, she continued attached to her native church, though deeming it proper, in the want of an Episcopal place of worship at Caverton, to attend the prelections of a Presbyterian divine, as preferable to an entire withdrawal from the external ordinances of religion. Thus, though she lived in the most economical manner, and could keep no servant, she was always so clean, and even so tasteful, in her household affairs, and also in her person, that her plain Scotch neighbours looked upon her as quite a lady. She had always a clean cover to her table, as the lower English generally have, while the Scotch of the same rank are so totally unconscious of the luxury. Her little grate was invariably bright, and her hearth-stone cleanly swept. She had a clean cap, a clean frill for her neck, and clean white stockings with red clocks, every day. She liked a little cream for her tea, and always had her bread nicely toasted. On Sundays, she indulged occasionally in a bit of roast beef, done by a string before the fire; while, as far as plum pudding was concerned, she always kept Christmas most religiously. Her resources being so very slender, she could not indulge in any company. But when a female acquaintance did her the honour to pay her a visit, she had always something nice for the stranger to taste, or was able to furnish forth a coriander or two for any of the children who might be with her. There was but one person with whom she was upon terms of particular intimacy. This was a humane lady in the neighbourhood, who pitied the lonely condition of the poor woman, so far removed from all upon whom she had any claims of kindred. Mrs Robinson had taken this lady bound, in the event of her death, to attend to the arrangements for her funeral, and, in contemplation of that melancholy occasion, had pointed out, in one of her drawers, a fine Holland shift, and a set of white silk stocking and gloves, which she said she wore at her two last marriages, and in which she wished to be interred.

Mrs Robinson lived for some time upon her small annuity, without falling into debt; but at length war-pieces, not to speak of the two years of scarcity which occurred at the close of the century, made her feel the pinch of poverty with little less severity than her neighbours. She was thus reduced to a state of distress, which, considering her former habits of life,

must have been neither light nor easily borne. The consequence was, that, for a fourth time, and most unexpectedly to herself, she was induced to don the chains of matrimony. In her neighbourhood lived an old weaver, named Renwick—a miserable creature, who, by sheer starving and cunning bargain-making, had become proprietor of one or two little fields in the vicinity of the town, and who had lately been left a widower, with a family, all of whom were grown up and entered into life. It occurred to old Thomas, that, as it was desirable at any rate to have another wife, Mrs Robinson would be the most eligible person, seeing that she had enough, or nearly enough of her own, to bear her share of their united expenses. Nay, he even thought, bad as the times were, that he might "make something of the old woman;" that is to say, be a gainer by taking her to board at twenty pounds a-year. On a general calculation, the project looked feasible enough. Here are we, said he to himself, each occupying a house, when one might serve us both, and each liable to expenses, which would be no more for two than for one: it is evident, upon every principle of economy, that we should dwell together, and not apart. Having settled the matter in his own mind, he was not long in making advances to the lady. Being an elder, and "powerful in prayer," he had acquired a kind of privilege of going about among his neighbours, by way of seeing after their spiritual welfare. He was easily able by this means to get a footing in Mrs Robinson's humble dwelling. She soon began to be surprised at the great interest the old weaver had suddenly taken in the state of her soul; though, in her mild gentlewomanly way, she never hesitated to join in the devotions which he seemed to take so much pleasure in performing at her fireside. Gradually the intimacy drew a little closer. The old man began to be rather ostentatious about his *crafts*, and his comfortable house, and the extent of work which he carried on. At length, when he thought the ground had been properly prepared, he popped the question one night in a prayer, and was accepted at the conclusion. The unfortunate old housekeeper was unable to resist the prospect of living in somewhat greater comfort than what she at present enjoyed, though the man was not agreeable to her either in person or mind. Her poverty but not her will consented.

Ere many weeks elapsed, Mrs Robinson had become Mrs Renwick, and removed to the house of her new husband. As both parties were experienced, as it may be called, in matrimony, and had arrived at a sober time of life, their honeymoon passed off without any of that appearance of parade which such an affair is apt to assume among younger people. The bride was in reality ashamed of what she had done. The tastes, manners, and general character of Renwick, were so much inferior to her own, that, notwithstanding his comparative affluence, she felt her connection with him as a degradation. It was indeed an ill-judged match on both sides, and ended in mutual disappointment. The old man found that his wife's annuity would hardly be sufficient to cover the additional expenses incurred on her account; and she, on the other hand, was grieved to discover, that, while she had the constant mortification of living with a man whom she detested, her aliment, by reason of his penurious habits, was more meagre than before. Tea, which for many years had supplied her with two out of every three meals, was a thing which he detested, and took every opportunity of railing against, as an expensive and thriftless article, though, by the bye, he was never observed to make the least objection to it when it was offered to him in any other

house than his own. Against this vile weed, as he called it, he now raised his standard most resolutely, and so keenly did he battle the point, that he actually reduced her tea-meals to one in the day within the first two months; an event which, before her marriage, she would have deemed almost impossible. Even this little remnant indulgence he contrived to embitter for her. In the evenings, when she had made every thing neat, and was about to partake of the cheering beverage, he would come gloomily in from his loom, and call for his brose, or for the cold broth left over at dinner-time, or for any other mean diet calculated to mortify the appetite, which he would devour with ostentatious humility on a stool by the fireside, by way of forming an accusing contrast to her luxurious situation at the tea-table. All those lesser comforts, such as white frills, and clean table-cloths, and so forth, which she had all her life been accustomed to have as a matter of course, were now grudged to her; and the reader may guess her astonishment, when one day this ancient Caledonian miser taxed her with the high and mighty misdemeanour of washing her hands twice a-day with soft soap. Even when she endeavoured to meet his economical views, she was not always successful.

"Do not I rise very early in the morning to please you? Much earlier, I'm sure, than I ever thought I could have risen."

"Ye lie till seven o'clock, and a' the world's up by that time. If ye were up by five, when I rise myself, it might be something to speak o'."

"But what could I do, if I were up at five? It is surely enough if I rise in time to put the house to rights, and prepare breakfast."

"Nae thanks t'ye, then; every body does that."

"Well, have I not given up my tea in the morning, and taken porridge instead, which you recommended so highly?"

"Parritch! parritch truly! parritch made wi' butter, and sweet 'ream on them!"

"Why, a little bit of butter is surely no great matter, and the top of the milk must be used one way or another."

"Ay, but dinna tak credit for gieing up tea, when ye tak something that's as gude."

"Well, really, I don't know how to please you. I'm sure you must allow me some credit for giving up my lunch. Never, since I can recollect, had I not a bit of summat in the forenoon, and now you see I do without it entirely."

"Lunch!" said he, in a tone of the utmost contempt. "Eneuch to bring down judgments, to hear the like o' you speakin' o' sic slalstrie."

In such jangling discourses did this ill-matched pair spend their time. To increase the discomfort of the lady, her husband's children, who originally looked upon her as an intruder apt to endanger their inheritance, interfered in her household affairs, and confirmed the old man in every jealous and illiberal feeling he entertained respecting her. It would be difficult to estimate the whole amount of odd and odious miseries which this poor woman had incurred in consequence of the war-prices. Little did Mr Pitt reflect upon this particular consequence of his stupendous efforts for the protection of the country.

The ill-matched pair worried on together for nearly a twelvemonth, by which time their mutual disgust had risen to such a height, that they scolded each other in their very devotions—he railing at her in the long-winded extempore "exercises" which he performed every morning and evening, while she took occasion sometimes to read from the prayer-book an ironical petition to "forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers." There was, unfortunately, no possibility of their being restored, by a separation, to their former respective conditions, for Renwick was afraid that, in that event, his wife might have claims upon him which he would not like to answer, while she, on her part, from a mere feeling of decency, revolted at the idea. The case, therefore, seemed likely to stand to the end of their lives, as one of the most notable examples of an ill-assorted union, when an unexpected incident put it in quite a different train.

A respectable-looking old man arrived one forenoon at the inn, and made inquiry of the landlord if a Mrs Robinson still lived in Caverton. Being informed that a person of that name, who had resided some years in the town, was lately married to one Thomas Renwick, he seemed greatly disconcerted, but nevertheless requested that some one might be sent with him to point out the house in which she resided. A Boots was immediately called out for the purpose, and in the course of a few minutes had conducted the stranger to Renwick's door. The old gentleman tapped, and presently Mrs Renwick, clean as usual, but not so well dressed as in her days of widowhood, appeared before him. They recognised each other in a moment, altered as they both were since they had last parted. It was Captain Robinson, who, twenty years before, had been understood to be killed

by the Americans, and whose widow the poor woman, during all that time, had supposed herself to be. I will not say that any particular raptures characterised their meeting; but, from the whole behaviour of the parties during the day, as it fell under the observation of the town's people, it was evident that they were mutually and sincerely glad to see each other. Time had altered both, but not more the one party than the other; so that neither had occasion to be disappointed on that score. Their conversation for some time, as may well be supposed, was but an incoherent tissue of questions and answers respecting each other's intermediate history, and delicate but painful allusions to the situation in which the absentee found his wife. It appeared that Captain Robinson had been taken prisoner by the Americans, and sent into the back part of the country, where he was soon after taken once more, and by an enemy of a different kind. He had fallen with some companions into the hands of a band of independent Indians, by whom he was retained in bondage till a very recent period, while the most of his fellows in misery had been killed, or perished from ill-treatment. Having at length escaped, he lost no time in returning home; and in passing through the metropolis, he had claimed and obtained from government a small pension, as a compensation for his losses and sufferings in the public service. He had with some difficulty traced out his "old woman," as he called her, in order that they might spend the remainder of their days together.

"Lordsake, man," cried Tammy from his loom in the other end of the house, where, concealed by an imperfect screen, he had heard all that passed; "tak her awa! Ye're welcome till her. She's only fit for an Englisher, and no for a plain flesh and kail kind o' man like me."

Mrs Robinson was accordingly withdrawn in a civil and amicable manner from the household where she had experienced so much wretchedness, and which was no unworthy of her. The old captain and she lived many years after in Caverton, a contented and happy couple. Tammy Renwick, though he felt a little awkward at first about losing his wife in so strange a manner, soon ceased to reflect upon the subject, or, if he did think of it, it was only to congratulate himself upon having escaped the duty of providing for a widow. He never expressed the least ill-will towards Robinson, but, whenever he afterwards happened to meet him, would say, good-humouredly, "Weel, captain, how's my wife?" The old miser would even sometimes drop in upon them in an evening, and drink from the tidy hands of Mrs Robinson, a cup of that beverage which he had formerly denounced to her as the most execrable of all earthly potations.

Though my story thus ends rather happily than otherwise, it is questionable if it *ought to have done so*. Mrs Robinson's exemption from the usual evil consequences of a sordid and absurd marriage was a matter of accident, and what no person in similar circumstances is entitled to calculate upon. Such affairs more generally end in protracted misery—and what other result can fairly be expected?

## EDUCATION. FIFTH ARTICLE.

[In introducing the concluding section of Mr Combe's Lectures, it may be useful and interesting to our readers to mention the circumstances which preceded the composition and delivery of them, and a knowledge of which indeed is necessary to a correct understanding of their objects. In lecturing to popular audiences on Phrenology, Mr Combe found it extremely difficult to convey to his hearers, in consequence of their entire ignorance of the structure and connections of the different bodily organs, precise and adequate notions of the influence of air, exercise, and diet, on the mind, and of the reflex influence of the mind on the health and vigour of the body. Air, exercise, and diet, influence the mind in consequence of the connection established between the heart, lungs, stomach, intestinal canal, and the brain; and the mind affects the body in consequence of its connection with the brain, and through it with the whole other bodily organs. This knowledge is of great practical importance, because it lies at the foundation of the right treatment of children, physically and mentally, and of all salutary habits in adult life. Mr Combe had heard several practising physicians also lament this general ignorance, as a great cause why many diseases, at first trifling, were allowed to become serious through neglect, and as a great impediment to the success of their treatment, their patients rarely comprehending the principles on which they proceeded, and often, from ignorance, thwarting instead of seconding their efforts to restore them to health.

Convinced that knowledge, which was calculated to be so useful, was capable of being communicated without offending against the most scrupulous delicacy, Mr Combe gave notice, that, in his lectures in summer 1833, he would introduce, as an experiment, a general description of the structure, uses, and reciprocal action of the bones, heart, lungs, blood-vessels, stomach, liver, intestines, and brain, illustrating his remarks by a skeleton and anatomical drawings—but by no other preparations—and that it would be optional to his audience, composed of both sexes, to attend these lectures or not, as they should find them profitable and agreeable. The lectures were delivered, and excited great interest: the attendance continued undiminished, and there was a general expression of satisfaction at the close.

Encouraged by this success, Mr Combe repeated and extended the anatomical lectures in the winter of 1832-3; and this course, also, was attended by upwards of 200 hearers, as many as his classroom could contain. Ladies of all ages, and of the highest delicacy and respectability, composed fully one-half of the audience. After having expounded in detail the different faculties of the mind, their uses, and spheres of action, and given a general description

of the leading organs of the body on which health and practice usefulness chiefly depend, and of the connection of all these with each other and with the brain, Mr Combe, at the close of his course. In three lectures, gave a summary view of the application of his principles to the subject of education. At the request of the directors of the Association in Edinburgh for Procuring Information on Useful and Entertaining Science, he repeated these three lectures in November 1833, to audiences of both sexes, averaging 400 in number; and afterwards, in compliance with the request of the directors, he published them; and these are the discourses which we are now printing.

This narrative will explain several circumstances which could not fail to strike the reader, and which might have misled him if unexplained. The lectures are not a complete treatise on education, but a fractional part of an extended course on the human mind generally; and they do not embrace that portion which treated of moral and religious training, accomplishments, and other important topics. On the other hand, they recommend instruction in anatomy and physiology to females, an advice which Mr Combe might with perfect safety address to an audience of ladies who had actually seen the experiment tried, and had testified their satisfaction by their eager attendance; but which, addressed abruptly to general readers, would be apt to startle them with its novelty, and to excite doubts of its propriety. We consider the experiment, however, as decisive. Upwards of a hundred ladies, some of them mothers, some of them of rank, and all of them of undoubted respectability, attended the anatomical lectures, in both courses, along with their husbands, brothers, and other male relatives and acquaintances, and no indecency or impropriety was experienced.

With these explanations, we present the following section to our readers.]

LET US NOW turn our attention to the female sex, and inquire into the provision made for their education. Looking abroad on the human species generally, and not confining my attention, as is too frequently done by persons who treat of education, to one class, and that class the highest in civilised countries, I am necessarily led to regard the great business of female life to be the nurture and rearing of children, and the due management of the domestic circle. Domestic duties are equally important to women as professions are to men; and, under a proper system of education, women ought to be taught every species of knowledge, and instructed in every accomplishment, which may directly contribute to their proper discharge. Every thing that can tend to elevate, adorn, and perfect human nature, is implied in the instruction requisite for the fulfilment of these duties. It is not my object to discuss in detail the elegant branches of female education, as these are fully appreciated. Too little importance, however, is generally attached to the instruction of females for maternal duties, and I am anxious to solicit your attention to a few remarks regarding them.

At the earliest dawn of intellect and feeling, the little girl manifests her interest in children. The doll is then the most absorbing object that can be offered to her attention. In maturer years, the mimic infant is laid aside, but the feelings which found delightful expression in the caresses bestowed on it are not extinct. The nature of the woman is the same as that of the girl: the conventional fashions of society may teach her to draw a veil over her affections; but they glow internally, and it will still be her highest gratification to give them scope in an honourable and useful field. If this be woman's nature, her education ought to bear direct reference to the cultivation and direction of it; in short, maternal and domestic duties should be held out as important objects of female existence, and her training should proceed in harmony with this great end. If high physical, moral, and intellectual qualities, are required for the due fulfilment of these purposes; and I have no hesitation in saying, that no occupations allotted to man afford a wider field for the exercise of the best elements of mind, than those here assigned to woman.

The physical quality next in importance to a woman, viewed as a mother, is health. The human body is composed of a variety of systems of organs, each having particular functions to perform; and health is the result of the favourable action of the whole, in harmonious combination. Every organ is disposed, other circumstances being the same, to act with a degree of energy in proportion to its size; and as disease is the consequence either of under-action, or of over-action, of the organs, their proportion to each other in size is a point of fundamental importance in regard to health. By the appointment of a wise Providence, a female figure of the finest proportions for symmetry and beauty, is, *ceteris paribus*, the most favourably constituted for healthy action. If the carriage of the body be erect, and the motions be easy and graceful, these are indications that the bones are solid and the muscles energetic—that the blood is well nourished and well oxygenised, and that it circulates freely. If the countenance beam with intelligence and goodness, there is a predominance of the moral and intellectual regions of the brain, and the individual in birth and constitution is one of nature's true nobility. Such a woman, if her intellect were instructed in the laws of physiology, so that she might deliberately maintain her high qualities unimpaired through life, would be, as a mother, a treasure of the highest value.

For many years, the lives of children depend almost exclusively on the care of the mother. Young women, therefore, ought to be taught not only how to regulate their own habits so that they may preserve their health and vigour, but also how to treat children, both as physical and mental beings. This information would be attended with great advantages, whether they subsequently discharged maternal duties or not.



The very study of the structure, functions, and proper treatment of human beings, with the view of exercising kindly affection towards them, would be delightful in itself; and the young students, if they did not become mothers, would at least be sisters, aunts, or friends, and could never want opportunities for the practice of their knowledge. Information of this description is not neglected by women with impunity. It appears by the London bills of mortality, that between a fourth and a fifth of all the children baptised, die within the first two years. There is no example among the more perfect of the lower animals, of such a vast mortality of their young, where external violence is withheld; so that woman, with reason, and morality, and religion as her gifts, makes a poor figure in her maternal character, contrasted with the inferior creatures acting under the guidance of pure instinct. Much of this mortality arises from imperfect health in the parents themselves, so that the children are born with only a feeble embryo of life; but much is also directly owing to injudicious treatment after birth.

One important branch of female instruction, therefore, ought to be, the treatment of children as physical beings. Lectures should be instituted to communicate this information, and the basis of it ought to be anatomy and physiology. The minutiae of these sciences need not be treated of, but the leading organs and their uses, on which health and mental activity depend, should be explained. It is a great error to suppose that this study is necessarily shocking and indelicate. It is so only in the eyes of ignorance and prejudice. The Creator has constituted every organ of the body, and we contemplate His workmanship in studying its structure and uses. To call this indelicate, is to libel Eternal Wisdom. The Creator has taught the inferior creatures to rear their young successfully by instinct, but he has not conferred this guide on the human mother. One of two conclusions, therefore, appears to follow. He has intended either that she should use her faculties of observation and reflection, in acquiring all the knowledge requisite for the proper treatment of offspring, or that she should recklessly allow a large proportion of them to perish. One or other of these conclusions is really inevitable; because, as He has denied her instinct, and as she cannot obtain knowledge to supply its place, without application of her intellect to the study of the laws of nature, which instinct prompts the lower creatures to obey without knowing them, the Creator must have intended either that she should study these laws, or give up her offspring in vast numbers to destruction. The latter result actually happens to the enormous extent just mentioned; and if it be the necessary consequence of the Creator's gift of reason, in place of instinct, to women, I submit to condemnation; but if it be the natural effect of their not having employed that reason in a proper direction, I say that He has commanded them to study His works. If this conclusion be just, we may rest assured that they may safely, and in perfect consistency with feminine delicacy, study the Creator's designs, power, and goodness, in the structure, functions, and adaptations of the human body; and that they will not find their higher faculties outraged, but exalted and refined, by the knowledge which will thus be revealed. Paley draws many of his best arguments and illustrations from anatomy in his *Treatise on Natural Theology*; and I have now before me a work by Mrs Phelps, entitled "*Lectures to Young Ladies, delivered to the Pupils of Troy Female Seminary, United States (Boston, 1833)*," in which the pious and enlightened authoress does not scruple to introduce the kind of instruction here recommended.

It has been said that it is better to call in the aid of a physician, than to study medicine for one's self. But I do not propose that young persons in general should study medicine. My recommendation is simply that they should be taught the structure and functions of the body with a view to preserving their own health, and to enable them to act like rational patients in the hands of a skilful physician when they are so unfortunate as to lose it. Every medical practitioner of a humane and honest mind laments the unnecessary suffering and expense to which he sees his patients exposed through lack of this information.\*

It may be imagined that rules for the preservation of health may be taught without anatomy being studied. But all such instruction is empirical. The authority of any rule of health is the fact, that Nature is constituted in such and such a manner, and will act in her own way, whether attended to or not—for good if obeyed, and for evil if opposed. This authority is rarely comprehended without instruction concerning the foundation on which it rests. The rule otherwise resides in the memory rather than in the understanding; and the possessor has no power of modifying her conduct, and adapting it judiciously to new circumstances. She knows the rule only, and is at a loss whenever any exception or new combination not included in it presents itself. The Professor of Scots Law most acutely and judiciously directed his students, when reading about the law of tide-deeds, to take the parchments themselves into their hands, and to look at them—assuring them, that familiarity with their

mere physical appearance would aid the memory and judgment in becoming acquainted with the doctrines relative to their effects. Philosophy and experience equally confirm the soundness of this observation; and it applies, in an especial manner, to rules relative to health. When a good description of the respiratory organs has been given to a young woman, she understands much better, feels more deeply, and remembers much longer and more clearly, the dangerous consequences of exposing the throat and breast to a stream of cold air or to a sudden change of temperature, than when she has only heard or read precepts to avoid these and similar practical errors.

Another leading branch of female education ought to be that kind of knowledge which will fit a woman to direct successfully the moral and intellectual culture of her children. This embraces a vast field of useful and interesting information. If we should ask any mother, who has not studied mental philosophy, to write out a catalogue of the desires, emotions, and intellectual powers which she conceives her children to be endowed with—to describe the particular objects of each faculty; its proper sphere of action; the abuses into which it is most prone to fall; and also the best method of directing each to its legitimate objects, within its just sphere, so as best to avoid hurtful aberrations—we know well that she could not execute such a task. I entreat any lady, who has a family, and who has derived no aid from mental philosophy, to make the experiment for her own satisfaction. She will discover in her own mind a vast field of ignorance, of which, before making the trial, she could not have conjectured the extent. I have time only to say, that I regard the earnest and practical study of phrenology, or, in other words, of the primitive faculties and their scope of action, as an indispensable step in practical education. There are few mothers who do not sometimes discover wayward feelings, particular biases, or alarming tendencies, breaking out in their children, when they least expect them; and I appeal to their own consciousness, whether they have not, in alarm and bewilderment, wondered what these could be, and lamented their own inability to comprehend or to guide them. Mothers who have experienced this darkness, and have subsequently studied phrenology, have appreciated the value and importance of the light which it shed on their practical duties. I am not pleading the cause of phrenology for the sake of making proselytes. My proposition is general, that a mother cannot train faculties without knowing their nature, objects, and sphere of activity; and if any woman can find practical information on these points without the aid of phrenology, I earnestly recommend her to seek out and apply it. To phrenology I owe the views of human nature and its capabilities, which have most benefited and delighted my own mind; but I am far from pressing it on others, who prefer to consider the mind as if it had no known connection with organization. If nature has connected it with organs, such individuals will meet with their reward in disappointment.

Let us now suppose a mother to be instructed concerning the physical constitution and mental faculties of her children; she will next require to become acquainted with the objects in the external world to which these faculties are related. We are told that it is a "delightful task to rear the tender thought, and teach the young idea how to shoot." The power of doing so seems to imply some knowledge in the teacher of the direction in which the mind will shoot most successfully, and of the objects to which it is related; in other words, such acquaintance with the external world as is calculated to excite the moral sentiments and intellect of the child, and operate on the happiness of the future man or woman. In female training, the communication of this information is deplorably neglected. It implies the study of the elements of chemistry, natural history, and natural philosophy, as well as familiar acquaintance with the social institutions of our own country, and the civil history of nations. If an ill-informed mother have an acute and clever child, how is she puzzled by its questions! and if she possess any natural sensibility, how keenly does she feel and regret her own ignorance, when it forces her to evade instead of furnishing rational and instructive answers to its ingenious and interesting inquiries!

The mother has it in her power to exert a great and permanent influence on the character of her children: she makes the deepest impressions, and supplies the earliest ideas, that enter their minds; and it is of the utmost importance to society at large, that she should be well qualified for so important a duty. Children who are not gifted with originating powers of mind, which is the case with nineteen out of every twenty, reflect slavishly, when they grow up, the impressions and ideas which their mothers, nurses, companions, teachers, and books, have infused into them; and of these the authority of the mother is not the least. "It was said by one of the most extraordinary of men (Napoleon), who was himself, as he avowed, principally indebted to maternal culture for the unexampled elevation to which he subsequently rose, that the future good or bad conduct of a child depends entirely on the mother."† Let women remember, therefore,

that they may sow the seeds of superstition, prejudice, error, and baneful prepossession; or of piety, universal charity, sound sense, philosophical perception, and true knowledge, according to the state of their own attainments; and let them also ponder well the fact, that the more thoroughly destitute they are of all sound information, and of all rational views of mind and its objects, the less they are aware of their deficiencies, and of the evils which their ignorance is inflicting on another generation.

In addition to the branches of solid instruction before narrated, women ought to be taught such elegant and refined accomplishments as they individually are capable of learning. These throw over the domestic circle a charm which cannot be too highly prized. What I condemn is, the teaching of music, drawing, and conventional manners, to the exclusion of all other kinds of knowledge. An enlightened, refined, and elegant woman, is the most lovely and perfect of animated beings; and no philosopher, in recommending useful instruction, would desire to see abated, by one iota, the graces which adorn the female character.

These views may appear to be so consonant with reason, that they support themselves; but as I am addressing a popular assembly, I solicit permission to strengthen them by the opinions of three contemporary authors.

The evils attendant on the imperfect education of females belonging to the upper ranks are forcibly expounded in a late number of the *Foreign Quarterly Review* (No. xxiii. p. 127). "Nothing," says the reviewer, "is more remarkable in the present age of mental excitement, than the care with which, by most of the prevalent customs and a system of fashionable education, the minds of the generality of females are consigned to inactivity and utter uncompanionable insipidity. Whilst the expression of almost every elevated feeling is repressed as inconsistent with refinement, every artificial want, every habit of selfish gratification, is as much as possible indulged. Active exercise in the open air, cheerful country walks, a joyful participation of the hearty pleasures of any society, in which every movement is not taught by the posture-master, or conversation conducted according to the rules laid down in books professing to teach female duty and behaviour; all this would be inconsistent with the general aim of all classes to imitate the manners and habits of the highest. All kind of reading, except of works the most frivolous, is considered ungentle, or at least singular; and any display of deep and unsophisticated sentiment excites universal pity. The beauties of nature, the triumphs of science, the miracles of art, excite no more than a languid expression of wonder. To apply the mind to read or understand such things, would destroy the apathetic elegance which those desire to preserve, who still believe knowledge to be a very good thing for persons who live by it. With as much care as the natural proportions of the female figure are destroyed by stays made upon abstract principles, is the mind cribbed and cabined by custom and fashion. Then, universal ambition leads to universal difficulties as to fortune; and the only serious duty as to daughters is, to obtain an advantageous settlement, which, whether gained or missed, is too often thus the cause of cureless discontent, injured health, and all the nervous maladies incidental to an ill-managed mind and infirm body."

"The system by which young ladies are taught to move their limbs according to the rules of art, to come into a room with studied diffidence, and to step into a carriage with measured action and premeditated grace, are only calculated to keep the degrading idea perpetually present, that they are preparing for the great market of the world. Real elegance of demeanour springs from the mind; fashionable schools do but teach its imitation, whilst their rules forbid to be ingenuous. Philosophers never conceived the idea of so perfect a vacuum as is found to exist in the minds of young women who are supposed to have finished their education in such establishments. If they marry husbands as uninformed as themselves, they fall into habits of indolent insignificance without much pain; if they marry persons more accomplished, they can retain no hold of their affections. Hence many matrimonial miseries, in the midst of which the wife finds it a consolation to be always complaining of her health and ruined nerves."—(Ib. pp. 128-9.)

"Knowledge," says Mrs John Sandford, "should be appreciated by women for its own sake, and not merely as a distinction. The superiority of cultivated women is in every thing very apparent. They have been accustomed to think and to discriminate, and their opinion is not a mere momentary impulse. Their sphere, too, is enlarged; they are not so much actuated by selfish feelings, or so liable to receive partial, and consequently erroneous, impressions. What an easy dupe to empiricism or design is a half-educated woman! With sufficient acquirements to be vain, and sufficient sensibility to be soon imposed on, she may be easily seduced from principles which she has received only on the authority of others, and which she is therefore ill prepared to defend." "Disorder is the accident, not the consequence, of talent; and as it is the more conspicuous, so it is the less excused, when accompanied with mental superiority."

I conclude this branch of the subject with the following just and eloquent observations of an American authoress, Mrs Emma Willard. It forms part of an admirable address which she presented, in 1819, to

\* The publication and sale of such works as Dr Macaulay's "*Popular Medical Dictionary*" show pretty clearly that my views on this subject are by no means singular.

† Moore's notices of the Life of Byron, 12mo. vol. ii. p. 35. Napoleon's proposition is too general. The father's qualities also influence the child, but those of the mother do so still more powerfully.

the legislature of New York, proposing a plan for improving female education; and which address has led to the formation of an extensive establishment at Troy, of which she is now the head. "Not only," says she, "has there been a want of system concerning female education, but much of what has been done has proceeded upon mistaken principles. One of these is, that, without a regard to the different periods of life, proportionate to their importance, the education of females has been too exclusively directed to fit them for displaying to advantage the charms of youth and beauty. Though it may be proper to adorn this period of life, yet it is incomparably more important to prepare for the serious duties of maturer years. Though well to decorate the blossom, it is far better to prepare for the harvest. In the vegetable creation, nature seems but to sport when she embellishes the flower, while all her serious cares are directed to perfect the fruit.

"Another error is, that it has been made the first object in educating our sex, to prepare them to please the other. But reason and religion teach, that we too are primary existences: that it is for us to move, in the orbit of our duty, around the Holy Centre of Perfection, the companions, not the satellites of men; else, instead of shedding around us an influence that may help to keep them in their proper course, we must accompany them in their wildest deviations.

"I would not be understood to insinuate (continues Mrs Willard) that we are not, in particular situations, to yield obedience to the other sex. Submission and obedience belong to every thing in the universe, except the Great Master of the whole. Nor is it a degrading peculiarity to our sex, to be under human authority. Whenever one class of human beings derives from another the benefits of support and protection, they must pay its equivalent, obedience. Thus, while we receive these benefits from our parents, we are all, without distinction of sex, under their authority; when we receive them from the government of our country, we must obey our rulers; and when our sex take the obligations of marriage, and receive support and protection from the other, it is reasonable that we too should yield obedience. Yet is neither the child, nor the subject, nor the wife, under human authority, but in subservience to the divine. Our highest responsibility is to God, and our highest interest to please him; therefore, to secure this interest our education should be directed.

"Neither would I be understood to mean, that our sex should not seek to make themselves agreeable to the other. The error complained of is, that the taste of men, whatever it might happen to be, has been made a standard for the formation of the female character. In whatever we do, it is of the utmost importance that the rule by which we work be perfect; for, if otherwise, what is it but to err upon principle? A system of education which leads one class of human beings to consider the approbation of another as their highest object, teaches that the rule of their conduct should be the will of beings imperfect and erring like themselves, rather than the will of God, which is the only standard of perfection."

#### JOHN SMITH.

[From the New York Evening Post.]

By the Liverpool packet, a double letter, folded and sealed in a way which led to the belief that money was enclosed, and addressed to Mrs John Smith, was received at our post-office. It had not long been deposited in its proper box, before a short, fat, smirking little woman made her appearance at the window, and, in a broad Irish accent, inquired, "Have you iver a letter for Mrs Smith?"

"Yes, here is one for Mrs Smith—Mrs Catharine Smith—is that your name, good woman?"

"No, that's not it—my name is Bridget."

"Ah, here is one. Pray, what is your husband's name?"

"Out on the vagaboue, his name is John."

The clerk was about to give the letter to the woman, but his experience had taught him that John Smiths were as plenty as blackberries; and he held it back, while he asked a few more questions. "And where did you expect a letter from, Mrs Smith?"

"Oh, from Cincinnati or New Orleans, or thereabouts. The villain John Smith (that I should say so!) promised to write me these two months, and not the bit scrape of his ugly pen have I seen at all at all."

"But this letter is from Liverpool, my good woman, and of course is not for you."

"Liverpool did you say! Oh, the ruffian, has he then deserted me entirely, and gone back to the ould country?"

"Supposing he has, you would probably expect to receive money from him."

"Is it money you mane? Sure then you have put your fut in it. The saddle is on the tother horse. It would be asking for money, not sending me any, that John Smith would be after. No, no, sharp's the eye

that ever sees the colour of John's money more for himself, and the man where he buys his whisky."

"I fear, if that is the case," said the clerk, "that I shall not be able to give you this letter. It appears to contain a large sum of money, and must be for some other person of your name."

The woman went away grumbling and scolding, and vowing "it was all a chate," and threatening, if there was law in the land, she would have her letter. In about an hour after, a tall, sallow-looking man, whose straight black hair, keen eye, and Indian gait, denoted him as one of that portion of our countrymen who style themselves "half-horse, half-alligator, and a little touch of the snapping turtle," walked up to the place of letter delivery.

"I say, stranger, I want a letter for John Smith."

"There is none addressed to that name," said the clerk; "but here is one for Mrs John Smith."

"Ah, that's me, or what's the same thing, it's my woman; so shell it out here in a little less than no time."

"Stay a moment, my friend; where did you expect a letter from?"

"Whar from!" exclaimed the Kentuckian in surprise. "Look here, stranger, I reckon you want to poke fun at me. Now let me tell you, I'm a pretty considerable sort of a chap—I'm a ring-tail roarer, all the way from Salt River. So, none of your cock-loftical cavorting about me, or I'll be into you like a streak of lightning."

"I merely wish to know where you expect a letter from, to avoid mistakes, as there are so many John Smiths. This letter contains money."

"That's why I want it. And so you're gwaing [going] to keep the letter for the sake of the shiners. Maybe you think I ar'n't worth no money. I tell you what, stranger, my old man's a heavy dog, and thinks no more of a hundred dollars (State Bank, you see, and not the rale specie) than you do of a hundred cents. Why should he? Ar'n't he a director, and what account is money to him?"

"But this letter is from England. Your father is not an Englishman, is he?"

"Look here, stranger: if you mean to insult me, jist step out here, and I'll lick you within an inch of your life. Englishman! I reckon if you had seen me at Orleans, with old Hickory, you would'n't a thought there was much English blood in me, though there war a pretty considerable smart chance of it on to me. And my wife's rale Kentuck' to the backbone, too: none of your half-and-half Yankee thrash. If the letter's from England, she should'n't touch it, if it contained ever such a powerful heap of money." And so saying, the stranger turned indignantly from the office, satisfied that a letter from England could not be intended for him or his.

The next applicant for a letter for John Smith was a small dapper gentleman, with hair of a reddish cast, light eyes, and sandy complexion. The bosom of his vest was traversed in every direction with strings of silk braid and safety chains, and his collar was rolled back with great precision, so as to display to the best advantage a curiously plaited bosom to his linen, and a set of gilt-mounted studs, with which it was adorned. His upper lip was shaded with some dozen or twenty hairs, which, as the weaver said of the threads of his carpet, were not as neighbourly as they should be; but they glistened with bear's grease, and had been forced with infinite pains from their bristling to a supine position, so that they presented quite a smart apology for mustachios. Our beau was highly indignant that a postoffice clerk should dare to question him, or withhold a letter addressed "to his lady"—but said it was no more than might be looked for under a rascally Jackson administration—told him with impressive earnestness that he was a gentleman—threw his card down with the look of an angry Caesar—and uttered mighty threats in a very weak and effeminate voice, which was not without a certain quaver, that seemed to denote that the speaker was not altogether sure whether the intermediate wall afforded a protection to his exquisite person. The clerk, however, receiving no satisfactory answers to his inquiries, was not intimidated into giving the dandy the letter, and the disappointed applicant walked off in a most unbecoming passion.

A long blue-eyed, red-cheeked, raw-boned, awkward-looking man, from "down east," was the next to ask for the much-claimed letter for Mrs John Smith; he was succeeded by a chubby negro woman, and a thickest, heavy-looking Dutchman followed her. None of them, however, gave satisfactory answers to the questions which the careful clerk thought it his duty to ask, and were obliged to go away as they came. At last a small pretty woman, with high cheek bones, rosy complexion, dressed in a neat close habit, a gipsy hat, having altogether a John Bull air, came to the postoffice window, and modestly asked if there was a letter by the Liverpool packet for Mrs John Smith. Noticing that the clerk felt some little hesitation at giving it to her, she authorised him to break

the seal, telling him what amount of money it would probably be found to contain, and one or two other facts, which would establish her claim beyond doubt. The contents of the letter proved her right to it, and, much to the joy of the clerk, the troublesome epistle passed out of his custody.

#### THE VILLAGE GARRISON.

It happened, in the course of the Thirty Years' War, that Gonsalvo de Cordova, who commanded the Spanish troops then overrunning the Palatinate, found it necessary to possess himself of a little walled village, called Ogersheim, that lay in his way. On the first intelligence of his approach, all the inhabitants fled to Mannheim; and when Gonsalvo at length drew near, and summoned the place to surrender, there remained within the walls only a poor shepherd and his wife, the latter of whom, having that very morning brought a little infant into this world of misery, was unable to leave her bed; and her husband, of course, staid with her.

The anxiety and distress of the poor man may be more easily conceived than described. Fortunately, however, he possessed both courage and shrewdness; and, on the spur of the moment, bethought himself of a scheme to give his wife and baby a chance of escape, which, after embracing them both, he hastened to put into execution.

The inhabitants, having run off in a tremendous hurry, had left almost all their property at his disposal; so he had no difficulty in finding what was necessary for his purpose—namely, a complete change of dress. Having first accoutred his lower man in military guise, he tossed away his shepherd's hat, which he replaced with a huge helmet, "a world too wide;" he buckled a long sword to his side, threw a goodly cloak over his shoulders, stuck two enormous pistols in his belt, and, putting on boots so thick in the soles and high in the heels, that they lifted him about half a yard from the ground, he fastened to them a pair of those prodigious jingling spurs which were the fashion of the time. Thus accoutred, he forthwith betook himself to the walls, and leaning with a pompous air on his sword, he listened coolly to the herald, who advanced to summon the village to surrender.

"Friend," said our hero, as soon as the herald concluded his speech, "tell your commander, that though I have not yet made up my mind to surrender at all, I may possibly be induced to do so, provided he agrees to the three following conditions, in which I shall make no abatement whatever. 1st, The garrison must be allowed to march out with military honours; 2d, The lives and property of the inhabitants must be protected; 3d, They must be left to enjoy the free exercise of the Protestant religion."

The herald immediately replied, that such preposterous conditions could not be for a moment listened to; adding, that the garrison was known to be weak; and concluding by again demanding the instant surrender of the place.

"My good friend," answered the shepherd, "do not be too rash. I advise you to inform your general from me, that nothing but my desire to avoid bloodshed could make me think of surrendering on any terms whatever; and please to add, that if he does not choose to agree to those I have already stated, he will gain possession of the town only at the point of the sword; for I swear to you, by the faith of an honest man and a Christian, as well as by the honour of a gentleman, that the garrison has lately received a reinforcement he little dreams of."

So saying, the shepherd lighted his pipe, and puffed away with an air of the most consummate nonchalance. Confounded by this appearance of boldness and security, the herald thought it prudent to return, and state to Gonsalvo the demands which had been made. The Spanish general, deceived by this show of resistance, and being unwilling to waste either men or time in reducing this paltry town, resolved to agree to the conditions offered, and, followed by his troops, approached the gates. This lenient determination was announced by the herald to the shepherd, who only vouchsafed to say in reply, "I find your commander is a man of sense." He then left the walls, let down the drawbridge, deliberately opened the gates, and allowed the Spanish troops to pour into the town. Surprised at seeing no one in the streets but a strange-looking fellow, whose caricature of a military costume hung upon him like patchwork, Gonsalvo began to suspect treachery, and, seizing the shepherd, demanded to know where the garrison was.

"If your highness will follow me, I will show you," answered the rustic.

"Keep by my stirrup, then," exclaimed Gonsalvo; "and on the least symptom that you mean to betray me, I shall send a bullet through your heart."

"Agreed," said our friend. "Follow me, Spaniards! for I swear by the word of an honest man and a Christian, as well as by the honour of a gentleman, that the garrison will offer you no injury."

He then placed himself by Gonsalvo's stirrup, and, followed by the troops, passed through several silent and deserted streets, till at length turning into a narrow lane, he stopped before a mean-looking house; and having prevailed on Gonsalvo to enter, he led him into a small room, where lay his wife with her little boy beside her.

"Noble general!" he said, pointing to the former, "this is our garrison; and this," he added, taking



his son in his arms, "is the reinforcement of which I told you."

Aware, now, of the real state of matters, the absurdity and cleverness of the trick moved even Spanish gravity, and Gonsalvo gave free course to his mirth. Then taking off a gold chain which decorated his own person, he passed it round the neck of the infant.

"Permit me to offer this mark of esteem," he said, good-naturedly, "for the valiant garrison of Ogersheim. By the hand of a soldier, I envy you the possession of such a reinforcement; and you must let me present you with this purse of gold, for the use of the young recruit."

He then stooped down and kissed the delighted mother and her boy, and quitted the house, leaving the shepherd to boast for many a summer day and winter night of the success of his stratagem.\*

#### RAMBLES OF A NATURALIST.

A NUMBER of entertaining sketches connected with natural history appeared some years ago in "The Friend," a weekly periodical of Philadelphia, and which were from the pen of Dr Goodman, a gentleman of that city, who died in 1830, deeply regretted by all who knew him. We feel gratified in having it in our power to make known in this country some of the more interesting of these valuable contributions to science, which we think cannot fail to be perused with pleasure by our readers.

"From early youth devoted to the study of nature, it has always been my habit to embrace every opportunity of increasing my knowledge and pleasures by actual observation, and have ever found ample means of gratifying this disposition, wherever my place has been allotted by Providence. When an inhabitant of the country, it was sufficient to go a few steps from the door to be in the midst of numerous interesting objects; when a resident of the crowded city, a healthful walk of half an hour placed me where my favourite enjoyment was offered in abundance; and now, when no longer able to seek in fields and woods and running streams for that knowledge which cannot readily be elsewhere obtained, the recollection of my former rambles is productive of a satisfaction which past pleasures but seldom bestow. Perhaps a statement of the manner in which my studies were pursued, may prove interesting to those who love the works of nature, and may not be aware how great a field for original observation is within their reach, or how vast a variety of instructive objects are easily accessible, even to the occupants of a bustling metropolis. To me it will be a source of great delight to spread these resources before the reader, and enable him so cheaply to participate in the pleasures I have enjoyed, as well as place them in the way of enlarging the general stock of knowledge, by communicating the results of his original observations.

In moving along the borders of the stream, we may observe, where the sand or mud is fine and settled, a sort of mark or cutting, as if an edged instrument had been drawn along, so as to leave behind it a track or groove. At one end of this line, by digging a little into the mud with the hand, you will generally discover a shell of considerable size, which is tenanted by a molluscous animal of singular construction. On some occasions, when the mud is washed off from the shell, you will be delighted to observe the beautifully regular dark lines with which its greenish smooth surface is marked. Other species are found in the same situations, which externally are rough and inelegant, but within are ornamented to a most admirable degree, presenting a smooth surface of the richest pink, crimson, or purple, to which we have nothing of equal elegance to compare it. If the mere shells of these creatures be thus splendid, what shall we say of their internal structure, which, when examined by the microscope, offers a succession of wonders? The beautiful apparatus for respiration, formed of a network regularly arranged, of the most exquisitely delicate texture; the foot, or organ by which the shell is moved forward through the mud or water, composed of an expanded spongy extremity, capable of assuming various figures to suit particular purposes, and governed by several strong muscles that move it in different directions; the ovaries, filled with myriads, not of eggs, but of perfect shells, or complete little animals, which, though not larger than the point of a fine needle, yet, when examined by the microscope, exhibit all the peculiarities of conformation that belong to the parent; the mouth, embraced by the nervous ganglion, which may be considered as the animal's brain; the stomach, surrounded by the various processes of the liver, and the strongly acting, but transparent heart, all excite admiration and gratify our curiosity. The puzzling question often presents itself to the inquirer, why so much elaborateness of construction, and such exquisite ornament as are common to most of these creatures, should be bestowed? Destined to pass their lives in and under the mud, possessed of no sense that we are acquainted with, except that of touch, what purpose can ornament serve in them? However much of vanity there may be in asking the question, there is no answer to be offered. We cannot suppose that the individuals have any power of admiring each other, and we know that the foot is the only

part they protrude from their shell, and that the inside of the shell is covered by the membrane called the mantle. Similar remarks may be made relative to conchology at large: the most exquisitely beautiful forms, colours, and ornaments, are lavished upon genera and species which exist only at immense depths in the ocean, or buried in the mud; nor can any one form a satisfactory idea of the object the great Author of nature had in view, in thus profusely beautifying creatures occupying so low a place in the scale of creation.

As I wandered slowly along the borders of the run, towards a little wood, my attention was caught by a considerable collection of shells lying near an old stump. Many of these appeared to have been recently emptied of their contents, and others seemed to have long remained exposed to the weather. On most of them, at the thinnest part of the edge, a peculiar kind of fracture was obvious, and this seemed to be the work of an animal. A closer examination of the locality showed the footprints of a quadruped which I readily believed to be the muskrat, more especially as upon examining the adjacent banks numerous traces of burrows were discoverable. It is not a little singular that this animal, unlike all others of the larger gnawers, as the beaver, &c., appears to increase instead of diminishing with the increase of population. Whether it is that the dams and other works thrown up by men, afford more favourable situations for their multiplication, or their favourite food is found in greater abundance, they certainly are quite as numerous now, if not more so, than when the country was first discovered, and are to be found at this time almost within the limits of the city. By the construction of their teeth, as well as all the other parts of the body, they are closely allied to the rat kind; though in size and some peculiarities of habit they more closely approximate the beaver. They resemble the rat especially, in not being exclusively herbivorous, as is shown by their feeding on the uniones or mussels above mentioned. To obtain this food, requires no small exertion of their strength; and they accomplish it by introducing the claws of their fore-paws between the two edges of the shell, and tearing it open by main force. Whoever has tried to force open one of these shells, containing a living animal, may form an idea of the effort made by the muskrat: the strength of a strong man would be requisite to produce the same result in the same way.

The burrows of muskrats are very extensive, and consequently injurious to dykes and dams, meadow banks, &c. The entrance is always under water, and thence sloping upwards above the level of the water, so that the muskrat has to dive in going in and out. These creatures are excellent divers and swimmers, and, being nocturnal, are rarely seen unless by those who watch for them at night. Sometimes we alarm one near the mouth of the den, and he darts away across the water, near the bottom, marking his course by a turbid streak in the stream: occasionally we are made aware of the passage of one to some distance down the current in the same way; but in both cases the action is so rapidly performed, that we should scarcely imagine what was the cause, if not previously informed. Except by burrowing into and spoiling the banks, they are not productive of much evil, their food consisting principally of the roots of aquatic plants, in addition to the shellfish. The musky odour, which gives rise to their common name, is caused by glandular organs placed near the tail, filled with a viscid and powerfully musky fluid, whose uses we know but little of, though it is thought to be intended as a guide by which these creatures may discover each other. This inference is strengthened by finding some such contrivance in different races of animals, in various modifications. A great number carry it in pouches similar to those just mentioned. Some, as the musk animal, have the pouch under the belly; the shrew has the glands on the side; the camel on the back of the neck; the crocodile under the throat, &c. At least no other use has ever been assigned for this apparatus; and in all creatures possessing it, the arrangement seems to be adapted peculiarly to the habits of the animals. The crocodile, for instance, generally approaches the shore in such a manner as to apply the neck and throat to the soil, while the hinder part of the body is under water. The glands under the throat leave the traces of his presence, therefore, with ease, as they come in contact with the shore. The glandular apparatus on the back of the neck of the male camel, seems to have reference to the general elevation of the olfactory organs of the female; and the dorsal gland of the peccary no doubt has some similar relation to the peculiarities of the race.

The value of the fur of the muskrat causes many of them to be destroyed, which is easily enough effected by means of a trap. This is a simple box, formed of rough boards nailed together, about three feet long, having an iron door, made of pointed bars, opening inwards, at both ends of the box. This trap is placed with the end opposite to the entrance of a burrow observed during the day-time. In the night, when the muskrat sallies forth, he enters the box, instead of passing into the open air, and is drowned, as the box is quite filled with water. If the traps be visited and emptied during the night, two may be caught in each trap, as muskrats from other burrows may come to visit those where the traps are placed, and thus one be taken going in as well as on coming out. These animals are frequently very fat, and

their flesh has a very wholesome appearance, and would probably prove good food. The musky odour, however, prejudices strongly against its use; and it is probable that the flesh is rank, as the mussels it feeds on are nauseous and bitter, and the roots which supply the rest of its food are generally unpleasant and acrid. Still we should not hesitate to partake of its flesh in case of necessity, especially if of a young animal, from which the musk bag had been removed immediately after it was killed.

In this vicinity, the muskrat does not build himself a house for the winter, as our fields and dykes are too often visited. But in other parts of the country where extensive marshes exist, and muskrats are abundant, they build very snug and substantial houses, quite as serviceable and ingenious as those of the beaver. They do not dam the water as the beaver, nor cut branches of trees to serve for the walls of their dwellings. They make it of mud and rushes, raising a cone two or three feet high, having the entrance on the south side under water. Perhaps these quadrupeds are as numerous in the vicinity of Philadelphia as elsewhere, as I have never examined a stream of fresh water, dyked meadow, or mill-dam, hereabout, without seeing traces of vast numbers."

#### COMPETENCE OR RICHES.

[We are indebted for this sprightly article to a lady whose husband has long held a commission in the army. It is written in that character, and is addressed more especially to the class to which the fair author belongs, though, we hope, its wisdom will be appreciated in a more extended circle.]

Pray, madam, what do you mean by competence?

Why, my dear ladies, it means a sufficiency for that station of life which we occupy. All beyond that is superfluous. We can only enjoy to a certain degree and a certain quantity of the goods and comforts of this world. We can only wear a certain number of fine clothes, and consume a certain quantity of food. We cannot go in more than one carriage at a time, occupy a certain number of rooms at one time, or space of ground for our own pleasure and amusement. A man may indeed possess an estate of ten thousand acres; but how little real individual pleasure does he take in them—how seldom has he, if ever, walked round them, and very probably never seen them at all! A rich man is compelled to keep an uncomfortable number of servants and carriages, and a rich lady to wear a number of fine dresses and jewels to please her own vanity and astonish her female friends, or rather to excite their envy and provoke their dislike. As for gentlemen, they seldom admire or even perceive finery in ladies; they know when the whole effect pleases them, but are seldom sensible of the quality or value of its component parts. If ladies are young, they have no need of ornaments; if old and plain, they only serve to render those circumstances more conspicuous.

A superfluity of money, therefore, must either be locked up in a chest, spent upon grand dinners and parties, or in keeping an immense number of idle menials—I say idle, because, if there are an immense number, they cannot possibly have any thing to do. There are, indeed, other modes of disposing of riches—such as employing a number of poor people in useful labour, and of bestowing it in charity on the helpless and destitute. This is the real use and comfort of a superfluity of money; but how few bestow it in that mode, and, consequently, how few enjoy any real comfort in riches!

I remember a story which my venerable and enlightened grandmother used to delight to relate, and which will illustrate the truth of the above assertions.

A tradesman and his wife, a worthy couple, having by honest industry acquired a competence suitable to their station in life, retired to a country town, where they lived in great comfort and respectability for some years; but a relation of theirs died, a rich merchant, and unexpectedly left them a legacy of some thousand pounds. The worthy sensible man made no alteration in their rational comfortable mode of life. He was only more and more liberal to those relations of his own and of his wife's who needed his assistance, and increased his charitable donations to the poor, and continued calm and comfortable as before. But his wife was not content with this proceeding. She said every morning to her husband, "My dear, now that we have got all this money left us, surely we ought to live more handsome and genteel."

"Why, what would you have, Goody?" said the reasonable old man; "have you not enough of every thing, and to spare also?" "Yes, that we have, to be sure," was always her reply. But still the next day she would always begin again with the same speeches about liking to live genteel. This continued for some months constantly, when at last, in answer to the daily request about living handsomer, the husband, good-humouredly, spoke thus: "Well, my dear, as you are so anxious to have an addition to our present rational mode of living, I wish to please you; make it. You know we have hitherto afforded every day a leg of mutton and a pudding—well, in future, you shall every day have two legs of mutton and two puddings."

This judicious speech at once opened the eyes of the good dame to her folly, and she never again wished for more than was necessary to real comfort. I am every day more and more convinced of the insufficiency of riches to give comfort. All beyond a rea-

\* The above anecdote is authentic, being mentioned in the Memoirs of the Elector Palatine. It first appeared in the Edinburgh Literary Journal, being a contribution from one of the authors of the Old Volume.

sonable sum is trouble, vanity, and vexation of spirit. In fact, an income beyond a reasonable sum draws with it so many concomitant expenses, that it ceases to be riches; for the unnecessary servants, horses, and carriages, a rich man is expected to keep, put him on a par with a man of half his income, with this additional discomfort, that the more servants he keeps, the less work he invariably gets done; for no proverb is more true than this—"A man who keeps one servant, has a servant; a man who keeps two servants, has half a servant; a man who keeps three, has no servant at all."

A rich man never dares to order his carriage until his coachman, footmen, and grooms, have all dined; and these lazy, rich liveried, pampered, pompous personages, take at least thrice the length of time in dispatching their dinner as the Emperor Bonaparte, who in the plenitude of his power never allowed more than twenty minutes to finish his dinner parties; and if the master of these lazy domestics be ever so impatient, he cannot get any one of his carriages without a long preparation.

A gentleman who keeps one horse and one gig, on the contrary, can have his gig and horse at any hour of the day he chooses, at ten minutes' notice; and after driving in it all day, drives his wife in it out to dinner. They put up the hood, and she pulls down her veil; and should her ringlets be a little discomposed by the breeze during the drive, the misfortune is counterbalanced by the healthy bloom on her cheeks from the fresh air, and from the bustle of an open carriage.

A fine rich lady steps languidly into a superb close carriage, and lolls listlessly in it to the mansion where some grand dinner waits her arrival. Two footmen obsequiously offer each an arm for her to alight; she walks formally into a splendid drawing-room, her hair in full trim, and her cheeks pale (unless she rouges); she turns her eyes inanimately round the formal circle assembled; a chilling silence prevails; at last dinner is announced; she sits down devoid of interest and devoid of appetite; she has eaten a good luncheon at three o'clock, and she scarcely tastes the variety of dainties it has cost so many cooks so many hours to prepare, and the host and hostess such sums of money to provide.

After a dinner of tedious tiresome length and painful silence, interrupted by a few casual remarks, the fine lady of the house bows to some bedizened and bedecked party of matrons and simpering misses, and they at that signal all rise from table, and adjourn to the brilliantly lighted up drawing-room, where they converse apart in knots under constrained whispers; for one half of the company are perfect strangers to the other half.

When this uncomfortable sort of conversation has lasted for some time, three or four servants in rich liveries enter, bearing splendid salvers of coffee and cakes, &c.; very soon after, tea is brought, with additional state and pomp, upon handsome tea-trays. The ladies partake of these varied refreshments chiefly as a relief to silence and weariness.

After the gentlemen have come up stairs and taken tea, some of the young misses are asked to play on the piano-forte or harp, or to sing duets; the old dowagers, who are at the card-table, wishing them all the time at the antipodes for making such a noise. Those who sit in the circle all talking all the time of the music, but not playing at cards, exclaim, at the end of each song, "Charming!" "Delightful!" "Very pretty!" "Who is the composer?" and a variety of such speeches, which signify nothing at all. Some of the party glide away, very impatient to go to one or two more evening parties which they are engaged to; nobody cares whether they go, or where they go. The rest of the party remain yawning until a late hour, when they are rejoiced to hear their carriages announced; they then make a sort of curtsy to the lady of the house—and it is difficult to say whether she or her guests are most glad to separate.

Let us now turn to a more pleasing and enlivening scene. Let us see how the gentleman and his wife who have only one gig and one horse proceed:—He is perhaps a captain of dragoons; they are invited to dine with the major of the regiment and his wife, and two or three brother officers and their wives, and some young subalterns. At five o'clock, the gig drives up to the door, and instead of its being opened by a pompous porter, and two or three servants in liveries standing in the hall, as in the house of a rich man, the gallant major himself runs to help the lady out of the gig, whilst the captain holds the horse. She skips into the house, and sees the parlour door open, and the major's wife busy making the salad; the ladies gaily shake hands; the captain's wife runs up stairs to take off her bonnet, and put on a smart comb and bunch of flowers in her hair; she slips off her woollen boots, and slips on a thin elegant pair of shoes, which she brought in a large reticule. In a few minutes down she comes as brisk as a bee. In the meantime, the gallant major and his brother officers discuss the promotions in the last Gazette, talk of the chances of a war, or chances of change of quarters.

Presently dinner is put on the table by the servant of the major, an old soldier, who is assisted in waiting at table by the servant of the captain, also a soldier, who has first put up his master's gig and horse. Every thing at dinner is hot, and well managed. It consists of soup, fish, a capital round of beef, a pair of fine roasted fowls, a nice piece of ham, pies, puddings,

&c. Every thing has been cooked by one smart bustling cook, who has followed her mistress to foreign countries. Military gentlemen and military ladies are almost invariably good managers, and there is no servant like an old soldier. He knows how to obey orders; he has seen difficulties, endured privations, and he possesses resources and contrivances which the pampered menials of great and rich men never dream of. The dinner passes in hilarity and sociability. The ladies having accompanied their spouses to various climes and stations, and gone through perils by sea and land, enter into the conversation of military adventures with delight, and join their sprightly remarks to increase the pleasure of recollected escapes and difficulties overcome.

Tea is made in the drawing-room, for the cook is tired, and the other maid (they only keep two) is busy putting the four children to bed. The major's wife makes the tea, and the captain's wife pours out the coffee. The gentlemen soon come, laughing and joking as they enter, and seat themselves socially at the tea-table. The ladies are laughing also, and talking of the difficulties of tea-making in the troopship where they were for so many months, where they never had any milk for their tea, and very little water to make tea of. They think themselves delightfully off now, yet, say they, we were very happy then.

The major pulls out of the table-drawer some sketches he made on board the troopship whilst lying off Benguela on the African coast. The captain takes out his pocketbook, and shows a sketch he made whilst in a boat gliding down some river in Spain during the Peninsular war. A young lieutenant, perceiving a guitar standing in a corner of the room, snatches it up, and strikes up a Spanish fandango, and then a waltz. Two young cornets start up, and begin waltzing together, with a variety of funny grimaces. Another youth takes a pair of castanets from his pocket, and begins singing a Spanish romanza, snapping the castanets and twirling about his fingers in high glee. One of the ladies, a native of Scotland, proposes a reel. Two young Highlanders jump off their seats in rapture, and stand up with her for a three-room reel. The major's wife plays some rattling Scotch measures and capital reels. They seem all inspired. She changes the measure again and again, and with every change fresh animation ensues—from the Cameronian Rant to the Lassies of Stewarton, Calder Fair, Lord Macdonald's Reel, Mrs M'Leod, and Major M'Bean, and the Duke of Gordon's Birth-Day. Her fingers at length ache, for she plays with energy and with expression. The dancing lady perceives her friend is exhausted; she glides into her place, whilst the major's wife takes her place in the reel. When they are both quite tired, the lieutenant's wife sings some Irish melodies and Portuguese medleys, accompanying herself on the guitar.

At ten o'clock the captain talks of ordering his gig. "No, no, no, you must not go yet," exclaims the major's lady; "we all need some refreshment after such various exertions." A tray is then ordered in, and quickly brought; for military people never let the grass grow under them.

It is nearly eleven o'clock before the cheerful party separate. The captain's wife runs up stairs quickly to deposit her smart shoes, her comb, and flowers, in her reticule; slips on her warm cloth boots; ties her bonnet and clock tightly on; shakes hands with all the party with heartiness; jumps into the gig after her husband. "Good night, good night, major; we have all been very merry, very happy. Don't forget, you are all to come to us on Monday; and you, Captain Segualil, don't forget to bring the castanets. We have a guitar at home."

Smack goes the whip, off goes the brisk horse, and the brisk couple are speedily whirled to their happy home.

#### EGYPTIAN MUMMIES.

The writings of Moses have thrown a character of the deepest interest over the transactions of the ancient Egyptians, and rendered them familiar to every inhabitant of Christendom; and the accounts given by numerous modern travellers have a tendency to excite a general desire to become acquainted with any particular relating to that once populous and magnificent part of the world.

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt appear, by their pyramids, temples, sarcophagi, and embalming of bodies, to have been solicitous to "endure for ever." In all of these they have been eminent; in the latter they attained an excellence which has never been equalled. Embalming was held in high estimation; it was believed that the soul remained with the body while it retained sufficient soundness to preserve the divine essence; and to give solemnity to the ceremony of embalming the dead, it was confided to the priesthood. The system they adopted was replete with skill and judgment; the brain was extracted with instruments through the nostrils, an incision was made, the contents of the abdomen were removed, the cavity washed with palm-wine, and filled with a resinous substance mingled with myrrh, cassia, and the most odoriferous spices; the body was then sewn up and covered with nitre for ninety days; it was then bandaged. The bandages were of a mixed quality, being fine outside and coarse within, and about five inches wide; they were saturated with gums. The body was then swathed from head to feet, in which two

hundred yards of bandage were employed; and, when completed, the most conspicuous parts were written upon in hieroglyphics, stating the titles and dignities of the deceased. Sometimes a beetle, which implied regeneration, and an idol, a symbol of faith, were placed on the body. It was then put into a case composed of plaster, in which a species of cotton was incorporated, forming a covering that preserved some resemblance to the form within; or it was placed in a case of wood, thickly covered with composition, on which were painted hieroglyphical figures and characters in extraordinary richness of embellishment. This was afterwards laid in a granite sarcophagus, the inner and outer surfaces of which were often covered with hieroglyphics, and then all deposited in a temple, or in an appropriate chamber, with the final ceremonies of sepulture.

A people who could thus indulge the desire for durability, seem never to have contemplated the change to which all earthly things are liable in the awful passage to futurity. They never thought that their stupendous temples would be plundered by barbarians. They never thought that their princes, or their priests, solemnly embalmed and religiously placed in all the security that wealth and art could contribute, would, while the Nile continued to flow, furnish objects of curiosity to future races of men, natives of a distant clime. Yet such is the fact: the possession of an Egyptian mummy became the desideratum of every traveller; no museum could be perfected without one; and such numbers were supplied, that an idea was excited, that, like works of art, mummies might be manufactured for the European market.

The wandering tribes of Arabs trace mummies from their silent abodes, rifled them of gems, and in their ignorance or knavery changed the receptacles of the bodies; it was therefore a rare circumstance to meet with a mummy-case which had not been despoiled. Still there was an anxiety to purchase, and often the new proprietor knew no more about the case, or its contents, than did the vessel that bore the relic from its native land. Intimacy with the facts has often shown the absence of the legitimate mummy from the decorated case. The discovery of interior inscriptions at variance with those on the exterior may have made an antiquarian scratch his head; but what a proof did it exhibit of the impositions practised by the modern Egyptians, Arabs, or Ethiopians, on the European mummy-hunters!

The catacombs of Grand Cairo, Alexandria, and Memphis, for ages had supplied the traders in mummy, while it was supposed to be a valuable addition to the list of medicines; but, perhaps, by the operation of common sense on the Europeans, the revolting practice was exploded.

There is some satisfaction in preserving a mummy in its case, particularly if it be doubtful whether it be a young princess or an old priest. There are many who feel delight in witnessing the unrolling of endless bandages, smiling at the hieroglyphics, and then staring at the dried remains of a being who moved on the earth three or four thousand years ago, perhaps a contemporary with Misram or Cecrops.

On a recent occasion in London, while taking the bandages from a mummy which had been purchased by Mr Salt in Egypt, thirteen years ago, the scientific Mr Pettigrew took occasion to state, that the examination of mummies did not always repay the trouble of stripping them; and, as a spectator declared, "after much excitement it afforded a good exemplification of an old adage, 'Great cry and little wool.'"

With respect to the hieroglyphics which accompany these Egyptian exhumations, it is to be regretted that more has not been discovered. The Egyptians are known to have employed three modes of communication—the epistolographic, or vulgar; the hieratic, or sacred; and the hieroglyphic, or mysterious: these are occasionally intermixed on mummies.

Expectation has been so long on tiptoe waiting for the development of these mysticisms, that it begins to get weary, particularly as M. Champollion, a French scholar and antiquarian, after devoting many years to the deciphering of hieroglyphics, died of vexation, it is said, at being unable to form any system approaching to accuracy; for it seems that the mystical style of writing was liable to caprices, or that the original forms were not adhered to by succeeding generations. And this is not extraordinary; for, as we have found in periods less remote, the ability to communicate with correctness was possessed by priests or monks only. It is more than probable that Egypt, in the various revolutions to which she has been subjected, may have been similarly situated, since the hieratic character is that most readily comprehended, its uniformity having been preserved through a long succession of ages. The destruction of the Alexandrian Library, no doubt, contributed to the obscurity of Egyptian literature; and notwithstanding the number of Greek and Roman men of learning who visited that country, as the parent of all that was excellent in intellectual attainment, the hieroglyphic style of writing was not preserved.

To return to the mummy and its case, the exterior of which is at times so highly ornamented as to excite and preserve a more lasting admiration than its contents; the description of a mummy-case is therefore given from one that has been transported from Egypt to London. The resemblance to the human form is preserved in the mummy-case; it is circular at the



head, spreads at the shoulders, tapers towards the legs, the swell of the calves is indicated, and the projections of the feet are in due proportion. The features are painted void of expression; a coil covers the forehead and falls on the shoulders like the wig of a judge; on either side of the head are painted blue expanded wings enriched with small circles of red and yellow; the chest is covered with a richly-ornamented solitaire; beneath it a variegated band surrounds the body.

On the breast is the head of a bird with wings expanding, and curving to the shoulders of the figure. All the wings are painted blue, the ends of the feathers are touched with yellow, and the points heightened with red. The claws of the bird are shown below, each grasping a ring, the symbol of eternity; from between the rings, on the centre of the body, an ornamented piece of chequered work descends to the waist, where a second bird is placed with wings depressed, its claws projecting with rings as above; beneath which, a band similar to that above surrounds the body. The space between these bands, and on either side of the centre ornament, are painted figures, with heads of birds and quadrupeds, encircled with draperies, and holding strips of drapery in their hands, interspersed with hieroglyphic characters. This appears the principal part of the mummy-case: on either side, as if standing on a band which encircles the knees, is a figure with a large yellow orb on its head; the wings are attached to the arms, and project towards the centre, so as to cross each other's wings above and below; the chequered ornament appears between, and descends down the front of the legs, and terminates at the toes; the middle portion of this ornament is covered with hieroglyphic characters. On either side of the lower extremities are smaller figures and ornamental bands.

All the objects are painted on a smooth white ground, with the primitive colours, red, blue, and yellow, which are so judiciously contrasted as to produce an effect of extraordinary richness. The sentiment which often occurs in sacred history of covering with wings, is beautifully illustrated on this mummy-case. The contemplation of such a richly decorated mummy-case is fraught with sensations of pleasure—if associated with its antiquity, it becomes grand and astonishing—if with its contents, solemn and appalling.

#### EMBASSIES TO CHINA.

In the article entitled "China and the Tea-Trade," forming a number of our INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE, we have adverted to the extraordinary indisposition of the Chinese to have any intercourse with foreigners; and to illustrate this peculiarity of national character, we may here point out the fate of the various British embassies which have proceeded to the court of Peking. In 1793, Lord Macartney, a nobleman of the most distinguished talents, was sent out with the view of endeavouring to effect an amicable negotiation with the Chinese government, for the purposes of traffic. He arrived at Peking, and was entertained with great pomp; but the purpose of his embassy was from time to time shuffled off by the crafty emperor, and he was at last dismissed upon some frivolous pretences of offence at his not complying with the court ceremonies of prostration. Of a piece with this, has been the fate of all subsequent embassies from various European nations; but the following abstract of the result of the mission of Lord Amherst, in 1816, will be sufficiently explanatory of the conduct of the Chinese government in this respect:—

In the end of July they arrived at the mouth of the Peiho, the river which passes by Peking. They were soon waited upon by three mandarins, two of whom, Chang and Yin, had the one a blue and the other a red button, which indicated high rank. The third, Kwang, had only a crystal button, but as Chincha or imperial commissioner, he took precedence of the other two. Indications of Chinese haughtiness were occasionally manifested; but, upon the whole, they behaved with tolerable politeness, and arrangements were made for the disembarkation and voyage up the river. An early opportunity, however, was taken of introducing the subject of the Kotou, or grand prostration, which had been the main stumbling-block to the success of every Chinese embassy. The Kotou, our readers are probably aware, consists in the individual admitted to the presence of the "celestial emperor" prostrating himself nine times, and each time beating his head against the ground. The question as to the performance of this ceremony had come under the consideration of the government at home; and the instructions given to the ambassadors seem to have been very judicious. They were to adhere, if possible, to the precedent of Lord Macartney, who had obtained access to the imperial presence without the performance of a ceremony so revolting to European ideas. At the same time, Lord Amherst was left at liberty to act as circumstances at the moment might seem to dictate; in short, should it seem advisable, the Kotou was to be performed. On the other hand, Sir George Staunton, and the others members of the Canton factory, objected to it in the most decided manner, as likely to

produce injurious effects, by lowering the English character in the eyes of the Chinese. The first questions were prudently evaded by Lord Amherst, who merely said, that every thing proper and respectful would be done. The embassy and suite were therefore embarked on the Peiho; and it was soon intimated that at Tien-sing, the first great city on its banks, an imperial banquet awaited them. The pleasure afforded by this testimony of respect was damped by the intimation that they were expected to perform the grand ceremony in presence of the dinner, in the same manner as if his imperial majesty had presided, which he was judged to do, having given the entertainment. This proposition was rejected by Lord Amherst in the most decided terms; he refused even to kneel before the majesty of the table; and, after long discussion, the Chinese compounded for nine bows, to correspond with the nine prostrations which they themselves made. The dinner was handsome, after the Chinese manner, and they continued their voyage up the river to Tongchow, the port of Peking. During the voyage and the residence there, the Kotou was an almost perpetual subject of discussion; and the mandarins spared no urgency which could induce Lord Amherst to agree to it. They even made the most solemn and repeated asseverations, that it had been performed by Lord Macartney; and they had the unparalleled effrontery to appeal to Sir George Staunton, who had been then present, for the truth of their statement. Finally, they brought forward an imperial edict, in which the same assertion was made. The ambassadors extricated themselves as politely as possible from the embarrassing situation in which they were placed by these scandalous falsehoods. Sir George evaded the references made to him; and Lord Amherst steadily referred to the archives of the former embassy, which bore that no such ceremony had been performed. To the first band of solicitors was now added Hoo, whom Mr Ellis terms a duke, though the expression, we think, cannot be properly applied in China, where there exists no high hereditary rank corresponding to the idea which we attach to it. This duke, as he is called, began by endeavouring to carry his point by roughness and blustering; but finding that these produced no effect, he assumed a more conciliatory tone, and held out high prospects, almost assurances, of solid marks of imperial favour, which would follow upon this point being conceded. Lord Amherst and Mr Ellis were inclined to yield, but Sir George Staunton having held a formal consultation with the Canton members of the mission, gave it as his and their decided opinion, that compliance would prove more injurious to the interests of the Company in China, than any concession which could be hoped for. The resolution of refusing it was therefore irrevocably fixed. The Chinese officers did all in their power to induce the ambassador to change his resolution, but when it appeared immovable, they seemed to yield the point, and said that the emperor would receive them on their own terms, by which kneeling upon one knee was to be substituted for the Kotou. The object was now to hasten their departure, which, through the exertions of the Chinese, took place on the afternoon of the 28th of August. They travelled that evening and the whole night round the walls of Peking, not being admitted into the city. Soon after day-break they arrived at the palace of Yuen-mien, where the emperor then was. They were ushered into a small apartment, filled with princes of the blood, mandarins of all buttons, and other spectators. Chang, one of their ordinary attendants, then came and announced the emperor's wish to admit them to an immediate audience. Lord Amherst objected, on the ground of his exhausted state, and want of all proper equipments. Chang finding all argument ineffectual, reluctantly carried the information to Hoo, who sent repeated messages, and at last came himself, and exhausted every form of argument or entreaty to induce Lord Amherst to enter. At length, with a show of friendly violence, he made a movement to draw him in, which was very properly resisted.

The principle of the Chinese government is to make every officer responsible for the success of the affairs entrusted to him, with very little inquiry whether they have failed through his own fault, or from unavoidable causes. This had led to the eagerness of the mandarins for the performance of the ceremony, and it now made them dread being punished for the disrespect shown to their imperial master. Their usual system of deception was resorted to. The emperor was told that the ambassador had been seized with a sudden illness, which rendered it impossible for him to appear in his majesty's presence. This passed off well. The emperor delayed the interview, and permitted the British to retire into a neighbouring house, where ample accommodation was provided. Unfortunately, he added the farther kindness of sending his own chief physician to assist in their cure. That person found Lord Amherst in the most perfect health, and with no visible impediment to have prevented him from appearing at court—which, being reported to the emperor, sealed the fate of the embassy. In two hours an order arrived to set out for Canton without a moment's delay; and no plea of fatigue being listened to, the party were obliged to set out by four of the same day. On their arrival at Tongchow, they found the triumphal arch, which had been raised to celebrate their arrival, thrown down, and the house provided for their reception shut up. On their ar-

rival at Canton, they found a new edict, in which they were bitterly reproached for the disrespect shown by refusing the offered audience. The viceroy was instructed to treat them with marked coldness, and even to give them a sharp reprimand.

Such was the result of the last embassy to Peking, and such appears to be the probable termination of every other, until the Chinese government are roused from their lethargic slumber of security by some summary process.

#### THE GOLD AND SILVER MINES.

An account was some time ago laid before the House of Commons, of the produce of the gold and silver mines in South America, from the year 1790, and of the produce of the Oural mines in Russia. This account has been obtained by the British consuls residing in the mining countries, namely, in Mexico, Cnill, Panama, and Buenos Ayres, in South America, and there is every reason to rely on its accuracy. It exhibits the supply of the precious metals, for four distinct periods of ten years, from 1790 to 1830, estimated in pounds sterling. The following is the general abstract of this interesting document:—

##### TOTAL PRODUCE OF AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

	Gold.		Silver.	
1790 to 1799	L.3,294,628	L.59,291,936	L.62,586,564	
1800 to 1809	4,179,197	55,368,934	59,548,131	
1810 to 1819	3,954,958	29,953,279	33,908,237	
1820 to 1829	5,571,917	25,712,461	31,464,378	

The editor of the Edinburgh Courant, in noticing this subject, made the following judicious observations on the fluctuations in the value of the precious metals referred to:—

"As the precious metals constitute in every country the standard of value, their own value is always a very curious and important practical question, implicated as it is with the faith of pecuniary contracts, and more or less also with all the important business of society. We have long been aware that the supply of gold and silver from the South American mines has greatly decreased, but to what extent was only matter of conjecture. From the official account now published, which, though not perhaps exactly accurate, must be nearly so, it appears that the annual supply from these mines, which was equal to about six millions sterling prior to the year 1810, has not amounted since that period, even with the new supply from the Russian mines, to above half that sum. If we were furnished with a similar return of produce from the Brazilian mines, from those of New Grenada, and from Saxony, we would have the most exact account which has yet been obtained of the supply of the precious metals throughout the world. But the additional supply from those countries, though it might modify, would not probably alter the general result. It seems clear that within the last twenty years there has been a great falling off in the general produce of the gold and silver mines throughout the world, while the demand has not abated. The question is, how far this decrease in the supply has tended to increase the price, and to diminish the price of all other articles.

Gold and silver constitute the measure by which we ascertain the value of all other commodities, while there is no other commodity by which we can measure their value. A rise in the value of gold occasions a general fall of prices, as a fall in its value occasions a general rise of prices. But the price of commodities varies from so many other complicated causes, that it is extremely difficult to determine the effect of any one cause, either in raising or in lowering prices. Within the last twenty years, the general price of commodities has no doubt fallen, but many other causes may have concurred to produce this effect besides a rise in the value of gold. All descriptions of manufactures, for example, have greatly fallen in price. But the introduction of machinery, by which they are produced at so much less expense, sufficiently accounts for this fall of price, great as it is, without referring to any rise in the value of the precious metals. Many articles, also the produce of land, have fallen greatly in value; and the cause here again may be the increased supply. Thus, within the last twenty or thirty years, sugar has fallen in value more than one half. This, however, is ascribed on all hands to its extended cultivation and the increased supply, which would have produced this effect without any rise in the value of the precious metals; though this latter cause may no doubt have aided in the general effect. There is in fact no exact standard or measure of value. A measure, whether of value or of space or capacity, cannot, it is evident, do its office, unless it be itself invariable. If a foot were alternately to vary from twelve to ten or eight inches, how could it possibly be an accurate measure of space? And in like manner, if a commodity vary in its own value, how can it accurately measure the value of other commodities? Now, we have no commodity which does not vary in its value; and ever, gold and silver, though more steady in their value than other articles, are far from being an invariable standard. It cannot be doubted that from the year 1760 to the year 1800 or 1810, the value of the precious metals had been gradually falling, and that this was one cause of the great rise which took place during this period in the price of corn, as in that of all other commodities.

For the last twenty years, the produce of the American mines, from which the chief supply of bullion is

derived, has fallen off, it is said, about one half, or nearly so. The accounts cannot, of course, be perfectly accurate; still there seems no reason to doubt that, since 1810, the supply of gold and silver has greatly decreased; and hence it is concluded that they have risen in price, and that in consequence the price of all other articles has fallen. Prior to the year 1810, it seems certain that the supply of the precious metals was greater than the consumption; it was, consequently, gaining upon the demand, and gradually depressing the price. As the supply of the precious metals, prior to 1810, exceeded the consumption, and the price was falling, it would of course require some time before the deficiency would so affect the market as to change a falling into a rising price. The abstraction of three millions, the estimated decrease in the supply of one year, from the whole mass of currency throughout the world, would scarcely be perceptible in any rise of price, and it would only be after the lapse of ten or twelve years that any impression would be made on the market. Every change in the value of money is a great evil, and tends to produce much disorder and injustice. But we have no remedy against those variations of value, however injurious, to which gold and silver are liable from the varying produce of the mines, this being an evil inseparable from the use of these metals as a standard of value."

#### PARENTAL AFFECTION OF THE WHALE.

[From the Narrative of a Naval Officer.]

FROM what I am able to learn of the natural history of the whale, she brings forth her young seldom more than one at a time in the northern regions, after which, with the calf at her side, the mother seeks a more genial climate to bring it to maturity. They generally reach Bermuda about the middle of March, where they remain but a few weeks, after which they visit the West India islands, then bear away to the southward, and go round Cape Horn, returning to the polar seas by the Aleutian Islands and Behring's Straits, which they reach in the following summer, when the young whale, having acquired size and strength in the southern latitudes, is enabled to contend with his enemies in the north; and here also the dam meets the male again. From my own experience, and the inquiries I have been enabled to make, I am tolerably certain that this is a correct statement of the migration of these animals, annually making the tour of the two great American continents, attended by their young.

The "maternal solicitude" of the whale makes her a dangerous adversary, and many serious accidents occur in the season of catching whales. On one occasion I had nearly paid with my life for the gratification of my curiosity. I went in a whale boat rowed by coloured men, natives of the islands, who were very daring and expert in this pursuit. We saw a whale, with her calf, playing around the coral rocks; the attention which the dam showed to its young, the care which she took to warn it of danger, was truly affecting. She led it away from the boats, swam round it, and sometimes she would embrace it with her fins, and roll over with it in the waves. We contrived to get the "vantage ground" by going to seaward of her, and by that means drove her into shoal water among the rocks. At last we came so near the young one, that the harpooner poised his weapon, knowing that the calf once struck, the mother was our own, for she would never desert it. Aware of the danger and impending fate of its inexperienced offspring, she swam rapidly round it, in decreasing circles, evincing the utmost uneasiness and anxiety; but its parental admonitions were unheeded, and it met its fate.

The boat approached the side of the younger fish, and the harpooner buried his tremendous weapon deep in the ribs. The moment it felt the wound, the poor animal darted from us, taking out a hundred fathom of line; but a young fish is soon conquered when once well struck; such was the case in this instance; it was no sooner checked with the line, than it turned on its back, and, displaying its white belly on the surface of the water, floated a lifeless corpse. The unhappy parent, with an instinct always more powerful than reason, never quitted the body.

We hauled in upon the line, and came close up to our quarry just as another boat had fixed a harpoon in the mother. The tail of the furious animal descended with irresistible force upon the very centre of our boat, cutting it in two, and killing two of the men; the survivors took to swimming for their lives in all directions. The whale went in pursuit of the third boat, but was checked by the line from the one that had struck her; she towed them at the rate of ten or eleven miles an hour; and had she had deep water, would have taken the boat down, or obliged them to cut away from her.

The two boats were so much employed that they could not come to our assistance for some time, and we were left to our own resources much longer than I thought agreeable. I was going to swim to the calf whale, but one of the men advised me not to do so, saying that the sharks would be as thick around it as the lawyers round Westminster Hall, and that I should certainly be snapped up, if I went near; for

my comfort he added, "these devils seldom touch a man, if they can get anything else." This might be very true; but I must confess that I was very glad to see one of the boats come to our assistance, while the mother whale, encumbered by the heavy harpoon and line, and exhausted by the fountain of black blood which she threw up, drew near her calf, and died by its side; evidently, in her last moments, more occupied with the preservation of her young than of herself.

As soon as she had turned on her back, I had reason to thank the "Mudian" for his good advice; there were at least thirty or forty sharks assembled round the carcasses; and as we towed them in, they followed. When we had grounded them in the shallow water close to the beach, the blubber was cut off; after which, the flesh was given to the black people, who assembled in crowds and cut off with their knives large portions of the meat. The sharks as liberally helped themselves with their teeth; but it was very remarkable, that though the black men often came between them and the whale, they never attacked a man. This was a singular scene; the blacks with their white eyes and teeth, hallooing, laughing, screaming, and mixing with numerous sharks—the most ferocious monsters of the deep—yet preserving a sort of truce during the presence of a third object; it reminded me, comparing great things with small, of the partition of Poland.

#### UNFORTUNATE GENIUS.

Years pass'd away, and where he lived, and how,  
Was then unknown—indeed, we knew not now;  
But once at twilight, walking up and down  
In a poor alley of the mighty town,  
Where, in her narrow courts and garrets, hide  
The grieving sons of Genius, Want, and Pride,  
I met him musing; sadness I could trace,  
And conquer'd hope's meek anguish, in his face.  
See him I must: but I with ease address'd,  
And neither pity nor surprise express'd;  
I strove both grief and pleasure to restrain,  
But yet I saw I was but giving pain.  
He said, with quickening pace, as loth to hold  
A longer converse, that "the day was cold,  
That he was well, that I had scarcely light  
To aid my steps," and bade me then good night!  
I saw him next, where he had lately come,  
A silent pauper in a crowded room;  
I heard his name, but he conceal'd his face,  
To his sad mind his misery was disgrace:  
In vain I strove to combat his disdain  
Of my compassion—"Sir, I pray refrain;  
For I had left my friends, and stepp'd aside,  
Because I fear'd his unrelenting pride.

He then was sitting in a workhouse bed,  
And on the naked boards reclined his head;  
Around were children with incessant cry,  
And near was one, like him, about to die;  
A broken chair's deal bottom held the store  
That he required—he soon would need no more;  
A yellow teapot, standing at his side,  
From its half spout the cold black tea supplied.  
Hither, it seem'd, the fainting man was brought,  
Found without food—it was no longer sought:  
For his employers knew not whom they paid,  
Nor where to seek him whom they wish'd to aid:  
Here brought, some kind attendant he address'd,  
And sought some trifles which he yet possess'd;  
Then nam'd a lightless closet, in a room  
Hired at small rate, a garret's deepest gloom:  
They sought the region, and they brought him all  
That he his own, his proper wealth could call:  
A better coat, less piec'd; some linen neat,  
Not whole; and papers many a valued sheet;  
Designs and drawings; these, at his desire,  
Were placed before him at the chamber fire,  
And while th' admiring people stood to gaze,  
He, one by one, committed to the blaze,  
Smiling in spleen; but one he held awhile,  
And gave it to the flames, and could not smile.

The sickening man—for such appeared the fact—  
Just in his need, would not a debt contract;  
But left his poor apartment for the bed  
That earth might yield him, or some wayside shed;  
Here he was found, and to this place convey'd  
Where he might rest, and his last debt be paid:  
Fame was his wish, but he so far from fame,  
That no one knew his kindred, or his name,  
Or by what means he lived, or from what place he came.

Once more I saw him, when his spirits fail'd,  
And my desire to aid him then prevail'd!  
He show'd a softer feeling in his eye,  
And watch'd my looks, and own'd the sympathy:  
'Twas now the calm of wearied pride; so long  
As he had strength with his resentment strong,  
But in such place, with strangers all around,  
And they such strangers, to have something found,  
Allied to his own heart, an early friend,  
One, only one, who would on him attend,  
To give and take a look! at this his journey's end;  
One link, however slender, of the chain  
That held him where he could not long remain;  
The one sole interest! No, he could not now  
Retain his anger; Nature knew not how:  
And so there came a softness to his mind,  
And he forgave the usage of mankind,  
His cold long fingers now were press'd to mine,  
And his faint smile of kinder thoughts gave sign;  
His lips moved often as he tried to lend  
His words their sound, and softly whisper'd "friend!"  
Not without comfort in the thought express'd  
By that calm look with which he sank to rest.

—Crabbe's Tales of the Hall.

#### PROGRESS OF TOWNS.

In the case of country towns, where a Highland laird or a speculating society has not interfered, it is matter of analysis, for the fashionable science of political economy, to discover how one of them has grown, or by what cement it is united. There is a church; that is the ordinary foundation. Where there is a church there must be a parson, a clerk, a sexton, and a midwife. Thus we account for four houses. An inn is required on the road. This produces a smith, a saddler, a butcher, and a brewer. The parson, the clerk, the sexton, the midwife, the butcher, the smith, the saddler, and the brewer, require a baker, a tailor, a shoemaker, and a carpenter. They soon learn to eat plumpudding; and a grocer follows. The grocer's wife and parson's wife contend for superiority in dress, whence flows a milliner, and, with the milliner, a mantuamaker. A barber is introduced to curl the parson's wig, and to shave the smith on Saturday nights; and a stationer to furnish the ladies with paper for their sentimental correspondence; an exciseman is sent to gauge the casks, and a schoolmaster discovers that the ladies cannot spell. A hatter, a hosier, and a linendraper, follow by degrees; and as children are born, they begin to cry out for rattles and gingerbread. The parson becomes idle, and takes the gout, and gets a curate, and the curate gets a wife and children; and thus it becomes necessary to have more shoemakers, and tailors, and grocers. In the meantime, a neighbouring apothecary hearing with indignation that there is a community living without physic, places three blue bottles in the window; when on a sudden, the parson, the butcher, the innkeeper, the grocer's wife, and the parson's wife, become bilious and nervous, and their children get water in their head, teeth, and convulsions. They are bled and blistered till a physician finds it convenient to settle: the inhabitants become worse and worse every day, and an undertaker is established. The butcher having called the tailor bad names over a pot of ale, Snip, to prove his manhood, knocks him down with the goose. Upon this plea an action for assault is brought at the next sessions. The attorney sends his clerk over to take depositions and collect evidence; the clerk, finding a good opening, sets all the people by the ears, becomes a pettifoggling attorney, and peace flies the village for ever. But the village becomes a town, acquires a bank, and a coterie of old maids; and should it have existed in happier days, might have gained a corporation, a mayor, a mace, a quarter sessions of its own, a county assembly, the assizes, and the gallows.

—MacCulloch's Highlands.

#### A WELSH CARD OF INVITATION.

Landfiller Castle.  
Mr Walter Norton, and Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys' compliments to Mr Charles Morgan, Mrs Charles Morgan, Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess (whose name Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect), and Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, request the favour of the company of Mr Charles Morgan, Mrs Charles Morgan, and Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess (whose name Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect), to dinner on Monday next week. Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, beg to inform Mr Charles Morgan, Mrs Charles Morgan, and Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess (whose name Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect), that Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, can accommodate Mr Charles Morgan, Mrs Charles Morgan, Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess (whose name Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect), with beds, if remaining the night is agreeable to Mr Charles Morgan, Mrs Charles Morgan, Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess (whose name Mr Walter Norton, Mrs Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect).

We have lately received a number of letters from persons in different quarters of both England and Scotland, making inquiry relative to the subject of Emigration. As it would be out of our power to answer such communications individually, and as we have laid down a rule of never filling even the smallest portion of our columns with "Answers to Correspondents," we now beg to mention generally, that some time ago we issued a complete body of information on Emigration, forming a part of our work entitled "Information for the People;" and in it, we believe, will be found almost every thing which the intending emigrant can require to know for his guidance. We also refer to the numerous articles on Emigration scattered throughout the Journal, in which our sentiments on this topic are very freely given, and in a way, we would hope, calculated to be of service to those, who, from their situation in the country or other circumstances, are unable to appeal to expensive books, or other sources of correct information.

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